

REMARKS

1. The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

2. Claim objections

In the Office Action, page 2, point 1, claim 22 is objected to because of certain informalities.

In the amended set of claims, claim 22 has been canceled.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

In the Office action, page 2, point 2, claims 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 whereby claim 21 was rejected because the claim was considered non-statutory material and claims 22-23 were rejected because they are dependent on claim 21.

Claim 21 has been redrafted as claim 26 along the lines suggested by the Examiner and claim 22 has been canceled. Claim 23 is now dependent on a claim submitted to be allowable.

4. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, page 3, point 3, claims 11, 15 and 18 are rejected because there is insufficient antecedent basis for limitations in these claims.

Each of the claims 11, 15 and 18 is now made dependent on claim 3, itself dependent on claim 2, so that the limitations "second subdivision target value" and "further subdivision target value" in claims 11, 15 and 18 find their antecedent basis in claim 2 and claim 3 respectively.

Claims 12-14, 16, 19 and 20 were rejected as being dependent on claims 11, 15 or 18 respectively. Claims 11, 15 and 18 being submitted to be allowable, claims 12-14, 16, 19 and 20 are also submitted to be allowable.

5. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, page 4, point 5, claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 17, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Someya et al. (USPN 5,396,257). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Generally, the method claims of the present invention relate to a method for controlling a large screen emissive display whereby:

- the emissive display comprises a plurality of emissive devices;
- these emissive devices are organized in a hierarchical structure;
- this structure comprises a certain number n ($n=1,\dots,N$) of different levels, arranged between the emissive devices and the emissive display, whereby n is an integer with a value of at least one;
- the n th level comprises a plurality of n th subdivisions; and
- each of the n th subdivisions comprises a plurality of $(n-1)$ th subdivisions, but each first subdivision comprises a plurality of emissive devices and the emissive display comprises a plurality of N th subdivisions.

The controlling of the emissive display is performed successively in different steps, starting with the level of the lowest rank, according to the following procedure:

- for the first level: for each of the first subdivisions, by setting the emissive devices so that each of the first subdivisions is optimized with respect to a first subdivision target;
- after that, and successively, for the n th level ($n>1$): for each of the n th subdivisions, by setting the $(n-1)$ th subdivisions so that each of the n th subdivisions is optimized with respect to a n th subdivision target; and
- for the emissive display: by setting the N th subdivisions.

In claim 1, $n=1$.

The apparatus disclosed in Someya is a multiscreen apparatus, combining a plurality of image display units each display unit being a CRT display. In each display unit, the entire CRT screen can, from a theoretical point of view, be divided into a certain number of blocks (see e.g. col. 5, lines 13 – 16 and col. 6, lines 29 – 33; Fig. 7, the elements e_{ij}). These blocks cannot be considered as emissive devices, because they are not individual devices, but all blocks together build one single emissive device: the screen of a display unit. The apparatus according to Someya can thus be considered as a multiscreen display, but without an intermediate level between the multiscreen display and the display units ($n=0$). However, in the emissive display of claim 1, there is at least one intermediate level (the first subdivisions) between the emissive display and the emissive devices.

The individual blocks of each CRT screen according to Someya cannot be set, either: their individual luminance is defined by their position on the screen and by the electron beam hitting the individual block. There is no possibility of a setting of each of these blocks, contrary to the emissive devices of claim 1. In Someya, the video signal is corrected while in claim 1, the working point of the individual emissive device is set to an appropriate value.

In the apparatus disclosed in Someya, a correction procedure in two consecutive steps is foreseen: first a correction of luminance shading of each of the display units ("cores") and secondly a correction of luminance shading between the display units (col. 4, lines 47 – 53). Both corrections are performed by correcting the video signals sent to the display units. All corrections are performed at the same level. After the two corrections, the two steps can be repeated (col. 5, lines 37 – 42), while in the method of claim 1 the optimization at each level is performed in one run.

The apparatus disclosed in Someya and the method used in Someya are thus completely different from the method in claim 1: there is no hierarchical structure with a plurality of levels in the apparatus of D1, there is no setting and a control method with a successive controlling and optimization of each level is not disclosed either.

For these reasons claim 1 is submitted to not be anticipated by Someya.

6. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, page 5, point 6, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-16, 18, 19, 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Someya et al. in view of Tanghe et al. (USPN: 2004/0233125). Reconsideration is requested.

As the Examiner has noted, the Tanghe reference can be overcome under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Tanghe Published Application No. US 2004/0233125 and the claimed invention of the present application were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same entity, Barco N.V. Accordingly, Tanghe is no longer prior art and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

Claim 24 is an independent apparatus claim, drafted along the lines of independent method claim 1. The reasoning above, applied in relation with claim 1, can thus also be applied to claim 24 and this claim is thus also novel and non-obvious in view of the prior art.

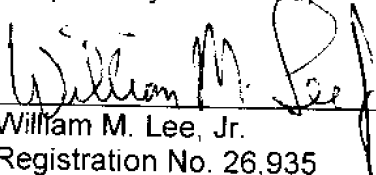
Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-16, 18, 19, 20 and 25 are claims, depending on claim 1 or claim 24 respectively. As claims 1 and 24 are submitted to be allowable, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-16, 18, 19, 20 and 25 are thus also submitted to be allowable.

6. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)